

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SS-20 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4824

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5116

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRN, WB, TU

SUBJECT: MODERN AIRLINES CHARTERS TO BERLIN

REF: A) STATE 138764; B) ANKARA 5109; C) BONN 10164 (NOTALS)

1. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR URGED GOT DIRECTOR GENERAL CIVIL
AVIATION GUNGEN GIVE POSITIVE CONSIDERATION TO MODERN AIRLINES
TRANSPORT (MAT) REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL CHARTER FLIGHTS FROM WEST
BERLIN TO ISTANBUL AND MADE POINTS OUTLINED REFERENCE (A). GUNGEN
STATED QUITE FORCEFULLY THAT HE HAD REFUSED PERMISSION FOR
ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS REQUESTED BY CHARTER CARRIERS (MAT, LAKER
AND DANAIK) BECAUSE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THEY HAD BEEN VIOLATING
TERMS OF THEIR COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH THY BY REFUSING TO
PAY ROYALTIES (AS WE REPORTED IN REF (B)). GUNGEN SAID THAT
ROYALTIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PAID TO THY BY CHARTER AIRLINES
FOR CARRYING PASSENGERS FROM WEST BERLIN TO TURKEY UNTIL
THY HAS LANDING RIGHTS IN WEST BERLIN. CHARTER AIRLINES HAVE
MAINTAINED THAT ROYALTIES NO LONGER REQUIRED SINCE THY HAS
LANDING RIGHTS IN EAST BERLIN. GUNGEN SAID THY OPERATES
ONE FLIGHT WEEKLY FROM EAST BERLIN VERSUS 21 REGULAR WEEKLY
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FLIGHTS FROM WEST BERLIN BY THE THREE CHARTER CARRIERS (WHICH

FLIGHTS HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY RECENT REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS). MOREOVER, THY MUST TRANSPORT PASSENGERS FOR THREE HOURS ON BUS EN ROUTE TO AND FROM EAST BERLIN AIRPORT AND FACE ADDITIONAL CUSTOMS AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES. GUNGEN SAID HE HAD TO ACT TO PROTECT TURKISH NATIONAL AIRLINE.

2. HOWEVER, HE WILL APPROVE MAT FLIGHT PROPOSED FOR EVENING OF JUNE 28 TO PREVENT HARDSHIP TO PASSENGERS. HE URGED REPRESENTATIVES OF THREE CHARTER AIRLINES (WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE ALL SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO ANKARA) TO MEET WITH THY ON JUNE 28 TO SETTLE MATTER.

3. GUNGEN SAID HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT FINANCIAL SITUATION OF MAT. HE UNDERSTANDS MAT IS IN DANGER OF BANKRUPTCY BEFORE THE END OF 1974.

4. BEFORE APPROACHING GUNGEN (OR RECEIVING REF (A)) E/COM COUNSELOR CONSULTED WITH UK AND FRG EMBASSIES. LATTER HAD ALREADY ON JUNE 27 APPROACHED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAKING APPROACH ON POLITICAL GROUNDS THAT GOT SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO SET BACK VIABILITY OF WEST BERLIN. FRG EMBASSY OFFICER SAID MFA HAD EXPLAINED ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS HAD BEEN REFUSED BECAUSE CHARTER CARRIERS HAD STOPPED PAYING ROYALTIES TO THY. (FRG EMBASSY OFFICER SAID HE HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHETHER LUFTHANSA MAY BE PAYING ROYALTY TO THY FOR CARRYING TURKISH WORKERS FROM POINTS IN WEST GERMANY TO TURKEY, AS MENTIONED REF (B)).

5. E/COM COUNSELOR INFORMED MAT REPRESENTATIVE (OTTO) OF DECISION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FLIGHT FOR JUNE 28 ONLY AND TO WITHHOLD APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS UNTIL ROYALTY QUESTION SETTLED. OTTO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY'S ACTION. HOWEVER, HE SAID TURKISH LAWYER FOR CHARTER AIRLINES HAD IN MEANTIME RECEIVED ASSURANCE (FROM UNKNOWN PARTY) THAT GOT MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS WOULD GRANT APPROVAL FOR ALL ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS WITHOUT ANY QUESTION OF PAYMENT OF ROYALTIES. OTTO SAID THREE CARRIER REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE MEETING ON MORNING OF JUNE 28 FOR CONFIRMATION OF THIS AND THEN WOULD PROCEED TO ISTANBUL FOR MEETING WITH THY OFFICIALS. HE PROMISED INFORM EMBASSY OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

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MACOMBER

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